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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Letter dated 17 July 1992 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the attached statement made on 2 July 1992 by President Bush on the completion of the withdrawal of United States tactical nuclear weapons (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 61 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Edward J. PERKINS

* A/47/150.

ANNEX

Statement made on 2 July 1992 by the President of the United States of America

In the wake of the momentous changes in what was then the Soviet Union, last 27 September in an address to the nation from the Oval Office, I directed that the United States undertake dramatic changes and reductions in our nuclear arsenal and challenged the Soviet leadership to go down the same road with us. In that speech, I directed that the United States bring home from overseas and destroy our entire world-wide inventory of ground-launched theatre nuclear weapons. At the same time, I announced that the United States would withdraw all tactical nuclear weapons from its surface ships, attack submarines and those nuclear weapons associated with our land-based naval aircraft. Many of these are to be dismantled and destroyed.

Today I can tell you that all of the planned withdrawals are complete. All ground-launched tactical nuclear weapons have been returned to United States territory, as have all naval tactical nuclear weapons. Those weapons designated to be destroyed are being retired and scheduled for destruction.

These historic measures would not have been possible without the full support of our allies around the world and without the farsighted and courageous leadership of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, Republic of Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev, and Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus Stanislav Shushkevich. They pledged to honour Soviet commitments to take comparable steps reducing tactical nuclear weapons, and it is important that implementation of these commitments be successfully concluded.

Now, I look forward to the prompt ratification of START and to concluding a treaty on the even more far-reaching reductions President Yeltsin and I announced at the recent summit in Washington.